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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: S.C. Cottrille et al. Attorney Docket No.: MSFT117229
Application No.: 09/339,733 Group Art Unit: 2176
Filed: June 24, 1999 Examiner: A.D.C. Romero
Title: SCALABLE COMPUTING SYSTEM FOR
MANAGING ANNOTATIONS

RESPONSE

Seattle, Washington 98101

June 9, 2004

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JUN 21 2004

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Technology Center 2100

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be re-examined.

The Office Action mailed on February 12, 2004 ("Office Action"), rejected all of the claims (1-28) of this application. Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,687,878 B1 ("Eintracht") taken in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,332,144 B1 ("deVries").

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and for the reasons herein set forth, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Prior to discussing the reasons why applicants believe that all of the claims in this application are allowable, a brief discussion of the present invention, followed by a brief discussion of the cited and applied references, is presented. The following discussions of applicants' invention and the cited and applied references are not provided to define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims of this application. Instead, these discussions are provided to help the United States Patent and Trademark Office better appreciate important claim distinctions discussed thereafter.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention addresses one of the shortcomings of previous forms of providing content by providing a scalable computing system that associates annotations with content sources. The annotations are stored on the servers of the highest order tiers of a multiple-tier

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